



The Southwester

www.swdc.org

Serving the Southwest and Capitol Riverfront Communities



Cherry Blossom Festival
Guide Pages 7-10

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The Graduate School and Washington Kastles to Join Southwest Wharf Redevelopment



The above renderings of the Graduate School's building (left) and the Washington Kastles Stadium (right) give an idea of the expected outcome of the Wharf's redevelopment. The Kastles Stadium at the Wharf will be completed by the team's first match on July 5. The Graduate School expects to complete construction by 2015. Graduate School image courtesy of Madison Marquette. Kastles Stadium at the Wharf image courtesy of Washington Kastles.

Graduate School to Anchor Wharf's First Phase

By Glenn Favreau

During a surprise news conference on Wednesday, March 9, 2011, Mayor Vincent Gray announced the Graduate School will be leasing nearly all of the planned office space of the first phase of the Waterfront Redevelopment project now known as the Wharf. The educational institute will effectively anchor the phase laid out from Seventh to Ninth streets and from Maine Avenue to the water's edge.

A large tent welcomed the mayor, Delegate Eleanor Holmes Norton, Councilmembers Harry Thomas and Muriel Bowser, Deputy Mayor Victor Hoskins, and Planning Director Harriet Tregoning, as well as directors of Hoffman-Madison Waterfront (HMW) and various local dignitaries and leaders.

"The addition of the Graduate School USA will bring activity, diversity and employment to the Wharf," Amer Hammour, Chief Executive Officer of Madison Marquette, told the crowd. "The school will create real employment and help build community in Southwest," he continued.

In an extended interview with *The Southwester*, Jim Huske, Chief of Staff and Vice President of the Graduate School, explained the genesis of the plan to bring the school to the Wharf. "After acquiring the Southeastern University Campus (SEU) in 2009, the Graduate School embarked on a plan to serve the same population as SEU, which had been located in Southwest for years," according to Huske. However, the building did

not meet the requirements of the Graduate School, and officials began looking for other opportunities in the neighborhood.

The Graduate School has recently been expanding programs despite the fact that its Maryland Avenue site is currently filled to capacity. The school has begun an allied health program and plans to add job training in the construction and hospitality industries to its curriculum. As it continues to seek regional accreditation, the Graduate School offers courses in job training under the Council on Occupational Education.

According to Huske, the Graduate School wants to use their future campus on the Wharf to lead in collaboration with other organizations and programs related to job training. "Our goal is to partner with others to create a job training center that does more than teach people how to write a resume," Huske said. "We are looking to create opportunities for local workers in the federal space: healthcare, construction, and hospitality," he added.

The Graduate School will build out some 200,000 square feet of space at the Wharf, to add to the 130,000 square feet it currently occupies on Maryland Avenue, near L'Enfant Plaza. If all goes according to plan, the school will open its doors by 2015.

Meanwhile, the fate of the former Southeastern University building has yet to be decided. According to Huske, many options are still on the table. It does seem, however, that SEU as an institution is now a thing of the past.

Kastles Pledge to Give Back to Community

By Bruce Moody

The Washington Kastles announced on March 7 that they will play the 2011 and 2012 seasons in a new stadium to be specially constructed for them in Southwest. The new Kastles Stadium at The Wharf will be located at 800 Water St., SW, the site formerly home to Hogate's Restaurant.

The Washington Kastles will be a platform for giving back to the community, owner Mark Ein explained shortly after the March 7 announcement that the tennis team is moving to Southwest, Washington, D.C.

The team's season will begin Tuesday, July 5, with a match against the World Team Tennis (WTT) defending champions, the Kansas City Explorers. A team roster released March 15 shows tennis greats Leander Paes, Rennae Stubbs, Serena and Venus Williams, this year's WTT first-round pick Arina Rodionova, and top 25 world-ranked Sam Querrey.

"We're very excited to bring the team down there," Ein said in a phone interview with *The Southwester*. "I think it's arguably the most special part of the city with the river and the park and the monuments but also the access to and from the city."

Ein said his team is to be an active part of the community. A native Washingtonian, Ein described Southwest as a neighborhood with a very strong sense of community.

"We're very excited to part of it," he said.

The Washington Kastles was founded three years ago with four principles, according to Ein. Those principles are to create a center of high-quality and fun activities, bring the city together, help local charitable partners, and expose the game of tennis to a wider audience.

"That's really why we do this," Ein said. "This is not a money-making endeavor."

The team has established relationships with dozens of community organizations, and each year they give to more than a hundred charity auctions. They gave out 1,800 tickets to matches through 35 different charitable organizations, according to Ein.

"There is a process," he said. "But, if there's a charitable organization particularly focused on youth who wants to bring a group to the matches we make that opportunity available for them to do that."

Much of the work is with youth-centered organizations. The team offers clinics "for kids in the city who wouldn't have the opportunity otherwise to get the chance to learn tennis from Serena Williams or Venus Williams," Ein said.

Other events have included basketball tournaments—one featuring LeBron James—and a skateboarding exhibition. For the last three years, the Kastles hosted the Street Soccer USA Tournament, an event aimed at ending homelessness.

Continued on Page 14

Local Government and Organizations

Highlights from the ANC 6D Monthly Meeting

**By Bob Craycraft, ANC 6D01
Commissioner and ANC 6D Secretary**

The Mar. 14 ANC 6D meeting was attended by all seven Commissioners and more than 50 community members at St. Augustine's Episcopal Church. The rapidly growing Near Southeast section of the ANC, and its importance to our shared future, was never more evident as Near Southeast issues dominated the agenda.

The meeting opened with a presentation about the ongoing redevelopment of the Capper Carrollsburg HOPE VI housing area, which is running nearly two months ahead of its leasing and sales schedule. Capper Carrollsburg is located between I and M streets and Second and Sixth streets, SE. Residents are expected to start moving into new townhomes in July/August, and the next phase of development will be 193 more units in a multifamily structure. Approximately 300 public housing units have been completed and are currently occupied.

The most contentious issue of the meeting was concern over the Waterfront Safeway's new receipt-checking practice. Two Safeway district executives attended the meeting and explained why the Waterfront Safeway was chosen as the store to test the program. At the conclusion of the presentation, the ANC Commissioners voted to send a letter of concern to Safeway's headquarters on behalf of the community asking that Safeway implement the same practice in a nonurban store.

The Commission approved plans for the Capitol Hill Day School to put up temporary, modular classrooms in the empty community center lot in the half block defined by L, Fourth, and K streets, SE. The school will be at this site temporarily while their current location at Second St., SE and South Carolina Ave., SE undergoes renovation. The Commission also approved DDOT's plans to improve safety and traffic flow at the busy intersection of Fourth and M streets, SW, including prohibiting left-hand turns onto M Street for vehicles going southbound on Fourth Street and creating an extra turn lane so drivers can make left turns onto M Street from

two lanes going northbound on Fourth Street.

In addition, the Commissioners voted to support an alcoholic beverage temporary licensing request for a Japanese beer and sake garden to be operated during the National Cherry Blossom Festival on Water Street, SW, in the space where Hogate's Restaurant used to be.

DC Water's Clean Rivers Project was on the agenda, and the Commission was advised that M Street, SE is going to be disrupted east of Ninth Street, SE from April 2012 through December 2013 for the construction of an enormous holding tank for rain water run-off, one of many to bring the District in compliance with federal clean water regulations.

Forest City's zoning change request to allow the second floor of the Lumber Shed Building in the new Yards Park just east of Nationals

Stadium to be used for offices rather than the approved retail use was met with concern from the Commission. Forest City's planners will address some issues raised during the meeting and address the Commission at the April or May ANC 6D meeting.

A request by the Neighbors of Southwest Duck Pond ("The Neighbors") to name the District park at Sixth and I streets, SW "Southwest Duck Pond" was approved by the Commissioners. The Neighbors presented a petition of 108 signatures representing seven of the District's eight wards. ANC Chair Ron McBee will now pass the request to Councilman Wells' office for Council consideration. The Neighbors are pursuing an agreement with the DC Preservation League to operate as a financial subsidiary in order to raise funds for the park's restoration

and ongoing maintenance.

The Commission also approved the Public Space Permit for landscaping/hardscaping of the redevelopment of the former newspaper printing facilities site north of Canal Park and south of Virginia Avenue/I-295 in Southeast. This huge building is being redesigned with the goal of becoming a more attractive office complex. Once complete, the building will house three District agencies: the Office of the Chief Technology Officer, the Commission on the Arts and Humanities, and the Child and Family Services Agency and feature a public-access art gallery.

The next regular business meeting of ANC 6D will be held in a different location than usual: Courtyard Marriot at 140 L St., SE on Mon., Apr. 11, 2011 at 7 p.m. Join us!

Community Calendar

MARCH

SAT. 26: National Cherry Blossom Festival opens with Family Day at the National Building Museum (festival runs through April 10)

7 A.M. - 1 p.m.: National Marathon and Half Marathon, runs through SW. Find street closures at www.nationalmarathon.com

10 A.M. - 3 p.m.: Southwest Neighborhood Assembly (SWNA) annual elections. Outside Safeway, Fourth and M streets, SW

11 A.M. - 1 p.m.: Community Emergency Planning Meeting, Southwest Library, 900 Wesley Pl., SW

1 P.M.: Kitchen Table Book Group, *Three Cups of Tea* by Greg Mortenson, Southwest Library, 900 Wesley Pl., SW

SUN. 27 11 a.m.: Lenten Study Group Discussion, St. Augustine's Episcopal Church, 600 M St., SW

MON. 28 7 p.m.: Southwest Neighborhood Assembly Annual Meeting and Swearing-In Ceremony for newly elected representatives, St. Augustine's Episcopal Church, 600 M St., SW

TUES. 29 7 p.m.: Southwest Foreign Policy Discussion Group, River Park Mutual Homes, 1311 Delaware Ave., SW

WED. 30 7 p.m.: Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) Committee of ANC6D. Public welcome. King-Greenleaf Recreation Center, 201 N Street, SW

THURS. 31 1:05 p.m.: Nationals Season Opener Game vs. Atlanta Braves, Nationals Park, Half and N streets, SE

APRIL

***PLEASE NOTE:** all DC Public Libraries will be closed on Fri., Apr. 15

FRI. 1 6:30 p.m.: St. Augustine's Family Game Night. 6:30 p.m., potluck, 7 p.m. games. Bring a dish to share. Board and card games provided, but feel free to bring your own games too. St. Augustine's Episcopal Church, 600 M St., SW. Call 202-554-3222 or email rector@staugustinesdc.org for more information.

SAT. 2 1 p.m.-8:30 p.m.: SW Waterfront Fireworks Festival

WED. 6 7 p.m.: Art & Spirit Coffeehouse. Mother-daughter duo Lois Tett, gospel singer and Marie Compohi, orator and comedienne, present an evening of old school "Gospel Songs and Funny Stories." Coffee and desserts, followed by audience Q&A. Free, with donations accepted for artists' honorarium. St. Augustine's Episcopal Church, 600 M St., SW

THURS. 7 8 a.m.-9:30 a.m.: Councilmember Tommy Wells Office Hours, Channel Inn, 650 Water St., SW

SUN. 10 9:30 a.m.: St. Augustine's Episcopal Church celebrates the 50th anniversary of its first meeting with a visit and guest sermon by the church's first minister, Rev. Alfred R. Shands. 600 M St., SW

MON. 11 7 p.m.: Advisory Neighborhood Commission Meeting (ANC6D), open to public, Courtyard

by Marriot, 104 L St., SE

WED. 13 6:30 p.m.: Monthly Poetry Night/Open Mic, Southwest Library, 900 Wesley Pl., SW

SAT. 16: DC Sail's opening weekend. For more information see their website: <http://dcsail.org/>

9 A.M.: Men of Christ United Methodist Church's \$5 breakfast, 900 Fourth St., SW

10 A.M. - 11:30 a.m.: Neighbors of the Southwest Duck Pond monthly clean-up, Sixth and I streets, SW

TUES. 19 7 p.m.: Southwest Foreign Policy Discussion Group, River Park Mutual Homes, 1311 Delaware Ave., SW

WED. 20 12 p.m.: AARP Southwest Waterfront Chapter 4751. Luncheon meeting with speaker, River Park Mutual Homes Community Room, 1311 Delaware Ave., SW. For further information, contact Chapter President Evelyn Dorsey at Dorseyear@aol.com or (202) 488-9685.

6:30 P.M.-8:30 p.m.: 2nd Annual Jazz Night, featuring live jazz and poetry. Southwest Library, 900 Wesley Pl., SW

THURS. 21 7 p.m.: Police Service Area (PSA) 104 Monthly Community Meeting

MON. 25 7 p.m.: Southwest Neighborhood Assembly (SWNA) monthly public meeting, St. Augustine's Episcopal Church, 600 M St., SW

WED. 27 6:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m.: "Viewing and Voicing" film and discussion program highlighting Emancipation Day, with Michael Mack. Southwest Library, 900 Wesley Pl., SW

SAT. 30 9 a.m.-3 p.m.: Tiber Island Spring Yard Sale, East Tower Building, 1245 Fourth St., SW

1 P.M.: Kitchen Table Book Group, discussion of *Black Boy* by Richard Wright, Southwest Library, 900 Wesley Pl., SW

WEEKLY, BIWEEKLY

THE KIWANIS CLUB OF SOUTHWEST WATERFRONT: Christ United Methodist Church, 900 Fourth St. SW, every first and third Monday from 6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

MONDAY EVENING FILMS: Southwest Library, 900 Wesley Pl. SW, every Monday, 6:30 p.m. Experience a different cinematic treat every week. Call 202-724-4752 for movie titles. All ages.

COMPUTER CLASSES FOR ADULTS: Southwest Library, 900 Wesley Pl. SW, every Thursday, 10 a.m. Apr. 7: Introduction to the Internet, Apr. 14: District of Columbia Public Library website, Apr. 21: Email, Apr. 28: Microsoft Word

THE SOUTH WASHINGTON WEST OF THE RIVER FATHERHOOD PROGRAM: St. Augustine's Church, 600 M St. SW, Tuesday and Thursday evenings. For more information, call Alfonso Coles at (202) 870-1885.

SOUTHWEST SEWING GROUP: Mondays, 9:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m., St. Augustine's Church, 600 M St.

SW. Contact Willie Mae Stukes, sewing teacher, at (301) 445-1792. Open to all interested in working on their own sewing projects and updating their hand and/or machine sewing skills. Mondays, except for July and August.

SOUTHWEST RENEWAL AA, Alcoholics Anonymous group, Mondays, 8:30 p.m., St. Augustine's Church, 600 M St. SW, (202) 554-3222.

SW FREEWAY NA, Narcotics Anonymous group, Wednesdays, 7 p.m. - 8 p.m., Westminster Presbyterian Church, 400 I St. SW, (202) 484-7700.

AARP-SOUTHWEST WATERFRONT CHAPTER 4751, Third Wednesday of each month, 12 p.m. luncheon, except for June, July and August, River Park Mutual Homes community room, 1311 Delaware Ave. SW. Please note that the March meeting will take place on the fourth Wednesday of the month. For further information, contact Chapter President Evelyn Dorsey, Dorseyear@aol.com or 202-488-9685.

HAND DANCING CLASSES, Jitter bug, lindy hop. Saturdays, 12 p.m. - 1 p.m. Classes by Markus Smith of Swing Anatomy Dance. \$10/class for adults, \$5/class for children ages 8 - 17. Christ United Methodist community room off Wesley Pl., SW.

HAIKU TO HIP HOP, creative writing workshop Wednesdays, 6:30 p.m. For ages 12 through 19, Southwest Library, 900 Wesley Pl., Wednesday 7 p.m. - 9 p.m. For all levels, even beginners.

CHESS CLUB, SW Library main room, 900 Wesley Pl., Wednesday 7 p.m. - 9 p.m. For all levels, even beginners.

BLUES MONDAYS, 6 p.m. - 9 p.m. Various blues musicians and singers featured each Monday, \$5. Food for sale, SW Westminster Presbyterian Church, 401 I St., SW, 202-484-7700.

WELLNESS WEDNESDAYS, 4 p.m. Seated yoga and healing sessions (Pamela Wilson and Riva Wine), 5:30 p.m. Laughter yoga (Claire Trivedi), 7 p.m. Sampoorna yoga (Alex Rosen). Free with donations welcome, Westminster Presbyterian Church, 400 I St., SW, 202-484-7700.

JAZZ NIGHT in SW, Fridays, 6 p.m.-9 p.m. Various jazz musicians and singers featured each Friday, \$5. Food for sale. Westminster Presbyterian Church, 401 I St., SW, 202-484-7700.

WASHINGTON STAMP COLLECTOR'S CLUB, 7 p.m. - 9 p.m. First and third Wednesday each month. Buy, trade, and sell stamps. Refreshments, auctions, and programs. Christ United Methodist Church, 300 block I St., SW (202) 291-6229.

SOUTHWEST FOREIGN POLICY DISCUSSION GROUP, 7 p.m. 2011 topics are: Rebuild Haiti, U.S. National Security, Horn of Africa, Responding to Financial Crisis, Germany Ascendant, Sanctions and Non-Proliferation, the Caucasus, and Global Governance. Tuesdays in 2011: Mar. 8, Mar. 29, Apr. 19, May 10, May 31 and Jun. 21. Meetings will take place at River Park Mutual Homes, 1311 Delaware Ave., SW. For information, to order the 8-topic study guide (\$20) and to reserve a space for 2011, contact Coralie Farlee at (202) 544-4407 or cfdc13@yahoo.com.

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Please submit calendar items for May events by email to thesouthwester@yahoo.com by April 11, 2011.

Near Southeast and Southwest Residents Organize for Common Goals

By Rev. Ruth Hamilton

More than 120 residents and stakeholders of the Near Southeast and Southwest neighborhoods came together

March 5 for a community-led dialogue to set priorities and determine next steps for the future. The summit was hosted by the Community Benefits Coordinating Council (CBCC), supported by the Local Support Initiatives Corporation and facilitated by America Speaks.

During the summit, attendees participated in facilitated table discussions focusing on five critical topic areas: Workforce Development/Jobs/Community Centers, Environmental Concerns, Youth Education and Services, Housing Diversity and Affordability, and Neighborhood-Oriented Retail and Services.

Of those attending, 68 percent were female, 32 percent were male, 54 percent were Caucasian, 33 percent were African American, 41 percent have lived or worked in the area for 10 years or less, and 29 percent were between 10-20 year residents. All age ranges were represented. The following were the top achievements in each area:

Workforce Development/Jobs/Community Centers

31 percent use schools and facilities for adult education

31 percent would like to ensure that Ward 6 is a part of the waterfront development legislation

26 percent would like to identify and create a workforce clearinghouse with knowledge base and skills sets

Neighborhood-Oriented Retail and Services

48 percent would like to see an increase locally owned businesses

40 percent would like to see the use unoccupied waterfront retail space until new waterfront development completed

Youth Education and Services

42 percent would like to bolster Pre-K in the community

23 percent would like to raise test scores at Amidon-Bowen and Jefferson

23 percent would like to see Jefferson Middle School used for adult vocational education and workforce development

Housing Diversity and Affordability

57 percent would like to make sure residential developers commit to specific housing preferences for current residents

38 percent would like stronger coalitions to represent all types of residents' interests to developers and policymakers

Environmental Concerns

36 percent would like to develop community gardens and transitional dog parks

33 percent would like to avoid over development; keep height and density restrictions

The citizen's use of Community Benefits Agreements (CBAs) was discussed and support

was strong for working on new CBAs regarding workforce development and housing issues in preparation for upcoming PUDs with several developments.

The America Speaks report on the Summit was sent out to all participants on Tuesday, March 15. CBCC will be meeting with other community boards and leadership to review the report and develop a coordinated strategy for achieving the priorities and goals established.

To learn more contact CBCC at nearseswcommunitybenefits@gmail.com. The report can be seen on the America Speaks website at americaspeaks.org/se-swcommunity.



Teams at the CBCC Summit grouped around critical topic areas to discuss what they considered the most important issues. Photo by Perry Klein.



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Southwest Neighborhood Assembly Elections to be held March 26 outside Safeway

The Southwest Neighborhood Assembly (SWNA) elections will be held **Saturday, March 26 outside Safeway** on Fourth St., SW. All residents of Southwest (zip code 20024) age 18 and older are eligible to vote. Elections will take place from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Residents can vote for all officers and up to two representative in their district.

President



Kael Anderson Now serving as SWNA Vice-President, Kael has been a Southwest homeowner for eight years. He is a community planner by profession and holds a Masters degree in urban and regional planning. In addition to serving as Director on the Tiber Island Cooperative Homes Board, Kael is actively involved in other leading community initiatives including the Friends of the Southwest Duck Pond, the Southwest Playground Project, and the Southwest ArtsFest.

Vice President



Jodi McCarthy has lived in Southwest since 2000. She serves on her condominium board, and she and her husband are parishioners at St. Dominic's. Director of Air Traffic Control Facilities at FAA Headquarters, Jodi holds an MPA from American University and is a graduate of OPM's Federal Executive Institute. Jodi wants to increase neighborhood shopping options and is particularly interested in ensuring that new development will enhance, not overwhelm, our quality of life in Southwest.



Grace E. Daughtridge, American University graduate, native Washingtonian, small-business owner, currently an elected member of SWNA. Reestablished SW's historic tree on G Street — Washington's 11th largest tree — and ensured its care and maintenance by the Urban Forestry Administration. As project organizer for Casey Trees Planting at Carrollsburg Square, planted 28 trees with residents along M, N, and Fourth streets and Delaware Avenue. Initiated the SWNA Employment Task Force to promote hiring of residents by developers.

Secretary



Laura Shin is a resident of Southwest and an avid reader of *The Southwester*. Some of the things that she finds exciting about the community are the new Safeway, the magnificent Arena Stage and the beautiful views from the waterfront. In her spare time she enjoys playing golf at Haines Point and ice skating. She is an attorney at the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. She graduated from the University of California at San Diego and from Southwestern Law School.

District 1 Representative



Gita Morris, candidate for First District Representative. Southwest resident since 1983. Resident of the Waterside Towers since 1991. Current Treasurer of the Waterside Towers Resident Association. Former International Broadcaster with Voice of America. Master of Sciences in Clinical Psychology. Volunteer math tutor at the Bowen Elementary and Jefferson Junior High. Avid supporter of the Neighbors of Southwest Duckpond. Issues of interest – resident-friendly urban development respectful of historic and landscape preservation, education, and culture.



Zev Feder Actively participating resident/business owner in Southwest since 2001, enjoying it immensely. Court reporter in DC Metropolitan Area for over 30 years. Prior seven years a teacher, mostly health/physical education in NYC Public Schools. I have spent many years as volunteer coach/referee/umpire/judge in baseball/softball/basketball/diving leagues and volunteered in other community endeavors. Served as president and board member of Capitol Square HOA on numerous occasions. I love Southwest. Thanks.



Mike Flick, 25, has been a SW District 1 resident, since August 2010. He works for an international non-profit NGO in Arlington. Mike currently volunteers with the USO and Yellow Ribbon Fund in the DC area. Mike is very passionate about serving others and would love the opportunity to represent the residents of SW District 1 on our Neighborhood Assembly.



District Boundaries

District 1: North of M Street, West of 4th Street
 District 2: North of M Street, East of 4th Street
 District 3: South of M Street, West of Delaware Ave
 District 4: South of M Street, East of Delaware Ave

Treasurer

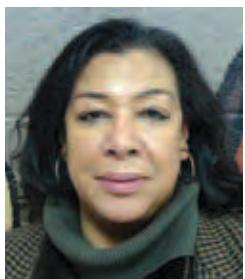


Jo Chang, MBA, Ed.D. A new member to the SW community dedicated to support and serve the community. Over thirty years of experience in the banking industry including auditing, risk management and regulatory compliance. Currently, an adjunct faculty at two local universities. Doctorate in Counseling Psychology, MBA and Certificate in Banking. A Certified Government Auditing Professional and Certified Fraud Examiner. Member of the United States Power Squadrons and the Port of Washington Yacht Club.



Ellen Winship, SWNA Treasurer; Carrollsburg Condominium Board; AU, Business & Accounting, BS; Columbia University, BS; GWU, MSA; SEU: International Business, MBA; Accounting, MSA; Taxation, MTA. My federal career has provided a wealth of accounting experience. My job titles include Regulatory Auditor, Operating Accountant, Systems Accountant, Financial Policy Writer, and Certifying Officer. Setting up BXA's financial office challenged my expertise and skills in accounting, policy writing, analysis, internal controls, and report design. Thanks for your support and vote.

District 2 Representative



Saadia Athias, SW resident since 1979. SWNA 2nd District Representative, 2009—area Waterfront, DMV, Lansburgh Park, Randall Rec, MPD (CAC/PSA). Partnerships: SWWR, Arena Stage, Safety Walkers, Safeway, Residents Councils, Councilman Wells, Mayor's Offices, DPR /DCPS, CBCC, PTA Amidon-Bowen and Jefferson, Chair YATF 2010. Magna cum Laude Southeastern, BS ECE; Master's in PA. Federal Security 14 yrs. Southwester writer/photographer. Arts program at Greenleaf. Future aspirations to further develop resources and facilities to operate essential community programs.

No Photo Provided



Ben Curran A native Washingtonian, Ben Curran, wishes to serve his community by focusing on promoting emergency preparedness and supporting the youth activities and history task forces. In addition, Ben is committed to supporting other SWNA members' goals and collaborating to get things done in Southwest. He has worked with the Federal Emergency Management Agency since 1989, and he and his wife Mimi are the proud parents of two boys: Jacob and Matiwos, both fellow native Washingtonians!

Monique Stuart has worked in Southwest DC since July, 2007 and lived in southwest since June, 2008. As a member of this community, Miss Stuart would like to dedicate her time to improving the neighborhood and the lives of the people who live here.

No Photo Provided

Shannon Vaughn My background as an Army officer gives me discipline and ambition, which I hope will bring a new, pro-active voice to our neighborhood. I have gone headfirst into helping our neighborhood and serve as Secretary of the Friends of Southwest Library. Also, I am fluent in Mandarin Chinese and Spanish.

District 3 Representative



Matthew Johnson I am young, single, and passionate — as well as unemployed — so I possess ample time and energy to devote to this position. In D.C. I have worked as a counselor, educator, community organizer, and journalist. I strive for professionalism and candor in my approach and oppose partisanship and self-aggrandizement in politics on any level. I may not have a fancy title, name, or degree, but nowhere will you find a more honest and incorruptible man.



Kenneth Prater is a native Washingtonian and resident of Southwest for thirty years. He graduated from D.C. public schools and the U.D.C. and once scored the nation's highest SAT score. He is a member of the Statehood Green Party, the father of the Pro-Choice Movement, and a former civil servant. His goals for SWNA would be to improve the quality of life for all neighborhood residents and protect the few remaining recreation areas from development.



David Campbell River Park resident, 4-year resident of Near Southwest. Married. Current position: Director of Trade Policy for German Chamber of Commerce. Professional credentials: Attorney, Certified Public Accountant (CPA). Community involvement: Chair of River Park Finance Committee. Have 10+ years of experience managing budgets and directing task forces. My SWNA priorities: development of Southwest waterfront and interior, economic revitalization and youth programs. Hobbies: reading, bicycling, museums. Email: climate.dc@gmail.com. Please vote for me on March 26!



Zach Dobelbower SW3D resident, owner since 2005. VP of Riverside Association; Chairman of Citizen's Advisory Council for Transportation Planning Board at COG; business owner on Barrack's Row; former Urban Sustainability Planner; member, Community Emergency Response Team; MPA, American University. If selected, Zach will work diligently to implement SWNA objectives, programs.

District 4 Representative



Robert Smith is a current resident of Southwest DC. He is a graduate with a BS Information Science and Systems and a MS Information Technology. He is co-owner of Capital Investitures, LLC. Robert currently serves as a delegate for the DC Chapter of Concerned Black Men, Inc. Robert is currently employed as a Systems Engineer for Software Process Technologies located in Columbia, MD.



Ken LaCruise has been a Syphax Village homeowner and Southwest resident since 2003. He has served as SWNA District Representative 4 for four terms and he currently chairs the SWNA Fundraising Committee. Ken is also involved in the community outside of SWNA as co-chair of the Southwest/Near Southeast Community Benefits Coordinating Committee for the past six years. And Ken is the co-owner of IslandStyle Caters.



A hawk, possibly a Cooper's hawk, stands among the remainders of its prey. Photo by Grace E. Daughtridge.

Hawks Thriving in SW DC

By Grace E. Daughtridge

In March multiple clusters of feathers were noted in Southwest and one large bird was found devouring its prey in the Sixth Place cul de sac. Photos of the bird were sent to George E. Watson, Ph.D., Ornithologist with the National Geographic who identified the bird as possibly an adult female Cooper's hawk. Watson explained there are three species of short winged, long tailed, and long legged hawks that inhabit forested areas in North America. The largest, the Goshawk, prey on large grouse in remote forests, the mid-sized Cooper's are adept at hunting mourning doves, and the smallest Sharp-shinned hawk are up to the size of Blue Jays and American Robins. Cooper's and Sharpies are relatively com-

mon in the Washington DC area.

On January 19, 2011 a female Cooper's hawk possibly entered a broken window in the Main Reading Room of Library of Congress and escaped efforts of experts to return her to the wild until January 27, 2011 when she was successfully captured and taken to a rehabilitation center in Falls Church, Virginia. Representatives of the Raptor Conservancy of Virginia used two starlings, "Frick" and "Frack", to lure the Cooper's hawk after she evaded one trap easily grabbing the frozen quail bait. She attracted much attention with Twitter and Facebook entries and updates with the library crowd trying to name her. Perhaps Southwest D.C. would like to name our Cooper's hawk or at least enjoy taking a gander.



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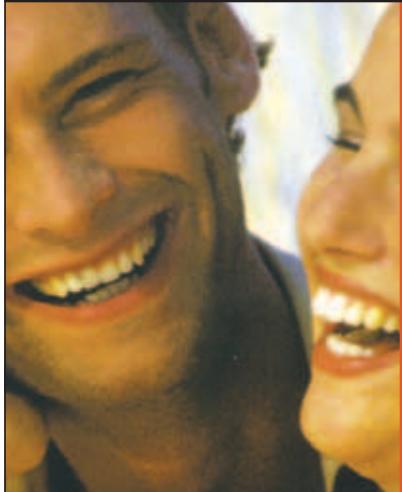
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SW Library Playground Project Well Underway

By Felicia Couts

The Southwest Library Playground Project (SWLPP) is a volunteer-led initiative to build a playground for Southwest D.C. children. The playground will be located in the park next to the Southwest Library at 900 Wesley Place, SW. Design plans include play equipment for children ages 2-12 and preservation of the trees and foliage. The SWLPP is an initiative of the Community Benefits Coordinating Council, a 501(c)(3) organization committed to helping Southwest and Near SE DC residents.

Community support is vital and several local companies and individuals have made fund-raising pledges. Frager's Hardware, restaurants along the waterfront including Captain White's Seafood, and local SW residents are all supporting SWLPP.

Councilmember Tommy Wells, ANC members, and the Department of Parks and Recreation are working with SWLPP volunteers to bring the park to life for Southwest D.C. children.

Amidon-Bowen Elementary School students participated in the Draw Your Playground contest to show the SWLPP volunteers what they want in a playground. First place went to Edugu Agada, second place to Justin Garcia and third to Vanquisha Smith. Winners were chosen from thirteen finalists. Their drawings show what the children want in a playground including features like swings, slides, a bike rack, and a water fountain. All of the drawings are planned for display at the Southwest Arts Festival later this year.

A "Community Build Day" is planned for late September 2011. All community members—children and adult—are invited to help. Although there will be professional assistance, volunteers of all skill levels will be valuable to this effort.

For information and to donate to the project visit www.swdcplayground.blogspot.com. To inquire about volunteering or for more information, email Felicia Couts, the SWLPP Project Manager, at SWPlaygroundProject@gmail.com.

Development News

By William Rich

■ **Forest City Washington** has proposed to change zoning of their Lumber Shed building adjacent to the new Yards Park to allow office space to occupy the second floor for a period up to 20 years. The historic building is slated to become a two-story retail center, but the zoning change is needed to increase the amount of pre-leased space so financing can be obtained for the project. Forest City Washington plans to occupy the space itself so it has a presence in its signature development in the area.

■ **As of March 15 only five units remained out of 123 units at Waterfront Tower, the condo conversion next to Waterfront Station at 1101 Third St., SW.** Sales began at the condo building in the fall of 2009. Future phases call for the eventual conversion of the twin apartment building at 1001 Third St., SW, to condos and the construction of two new towers in the parking lots fronting M Street and K Street, SW.

■ **Onyx on First**, a 266-unit apartment building located at 1100 1st St., SE is for sale. The building is more than 90% occupied. Faison and the Canyon-Johnson Urban Fund built Onyx back in 2009 and originally planned for condos before switching to apartments while under construction.

■ The National Capital Planning Commission met to discuss the latest plans for the Eisenhower Memorial, planned just off the National Mall in the garden space in front of U.S. Department of Education headquarters. The concept preferred by the Eisenhower

Memorial Commission calls for Maryland Avenue, SW to be realigned with the axis of the Capitol building but be closed to vehicular traffic; stone block sculptures with quotes from President Eisenhower surrounding a central grove of sycamore trees; and large woven stainless steel tapestries with scenery from Eisenhower's home town of Abilene, Kansas.

■ **Harry's Reserve Fine Wine and Spirits** is now open for business on the southwest corner of New Jersey Avenue and I Street, SE at the ground floor of the 909 New Jersey Ave., SE apartment building. The owners are the same ones who operated Harry's Liquors at the old Waterside Mall. In addition to wine, beer and spirit sales, the new store plans to sell some convenience goods and offer wine tastings.

■ **The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)** has decided to stay put in its headquarters building at Two Independence Square, located at the corner of 3rd and E Street, SW. A 15-year lease of approximately 600,000 square feet was signed by the General Services Administration for the space agency, which considered moving elsewhere in the District before making the decision to remain in their space.

News from Southwest was adapted from the Southwest...The Little Quadrant That Could blog (www.southwestquadrant.blogspot.com) and Near SE news was adapted from the JD Land blog (www.jdland.com/dc).

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National Cherry Blossom Festival Zeros in on Southwest April 2

By Glenn Favreau

The delicate pink blooms that grace the leafless, spindly branches each spring in Washington are not only the toast of the town, they are also well known in the entire nation.

According to data provided by Nielsen Media Research, televised mention of the National Cherry Blossom Festival (NCBF) reached some 189 million Americans last year.

"Countless people have been here or want to come here for the festival," said Diana Mayhew, president of the NCBF. Sporting her pink overcoat adorned with the official 2011 commemorative Cherry Blossom pin, Mayhew is one of the best marketers for the festival.

The Newseum was awash with pink and also light blue (Southwest Waterfront's own color) at the kick-off news conference for this year's festival on March 2. Dignitaries from Japan, Washington, and Southwest joined the news media and National Park Service Chief Horticulturalist Rob DeFeo for the annual announcement of the prognosticated peak, this year predicted for March 29 through April 3.

The recent tragedy in Japan makes celebrating the Japan's gift of trees to the United States a special time of reciprocity as so many Americans look for ways to help those who are in such dire need after the earthquake and tsunami. The NCBF suggests contacting the American Red Cross for more information on ways to help.

The NCBF this year will feature a huge array of events from March 26 through April 10. A complete schedule of events can be found on www.nationalcherryblossomfestival.org. Program books will be available at all of the events, including the South-



Photo courtesy of the National Cherry Blossom Festival.

west Fireworks Festival.

In Southwest, no one needs to be told this is the nation's greatest springtime celebration. All one needs to do is glace across the Washington Channel or up towards the tidal basin and know spring is here. The Festival celebrates Southwest as a community and as the caretaker of the majority of the Yoshino Cherry Trees, through the annual fireworks and the pre-party on the Waterfront, now rebranded as the Southwest Fireworks Festival. In a year of many novelties in Southwest (the future Kastles' Stadium, a brand new Arena Stage, a newly branded Wharf among others) the name change was appropriate, according to Barbara Ehrlich of the Washington Waterfront Association (WWA).

This year, with the
Continued on Page 10



Mayor Ozaki poses with his daughters by the Tidal Basin in an undated photo. Photo courtesy of the National Cherry Blossom Festival.

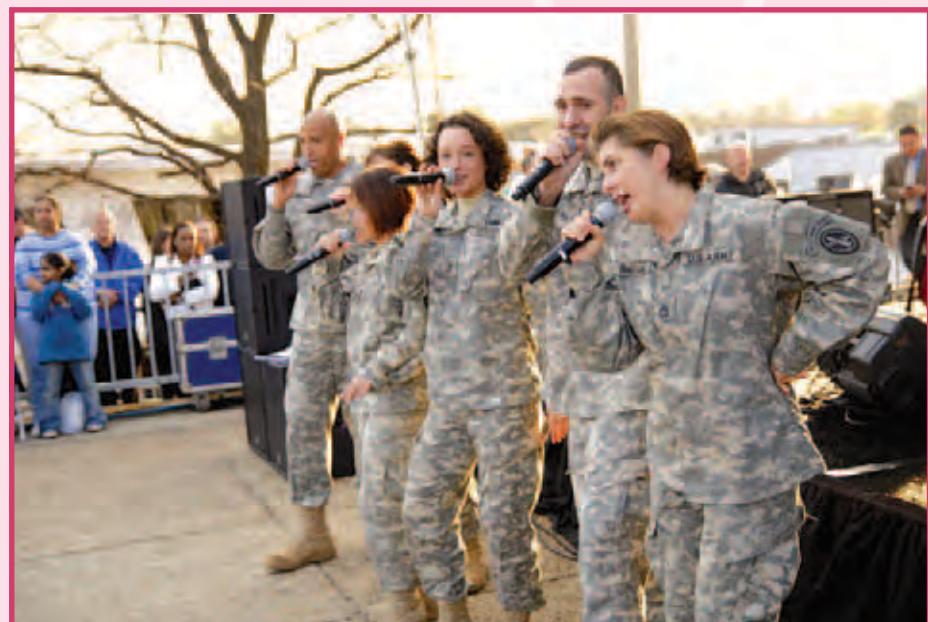


Photo courtesy of the National Cherry Blossom Festival.

Looking Forward to 2012: The Centennial Celebration of the Gift of Trees

By Glenn Favreau

Tokyo mayor Yukio Ozaki extended a hand of friendship 99 years ago to the United States with a gift of Yoshino Cherry Trees to be planted in Washington, D.C. As the years passed, Ozaki built on the initial gift with more trees, and even through difficult times in international relations and a war, the peace-loving Ozaki was able to establish a lasting legacy of beauty in

our country, linking it to his homeland.

The National Cherry Blossom Festival (NCBF) is already working on next year's Centennial Celebration with a huge five-week string of festivities which will stretch from the first day of spring of 2012 to Arbor Day on April 27 of the same year.

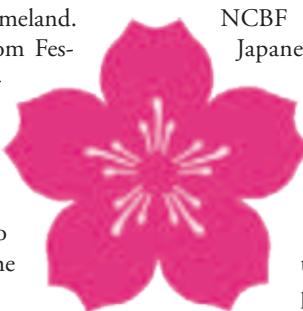
Diana Mayhew, president of

NCBF told the Southwester the Japanese Foreign Ministry has announced that a companion Centennial Celebration will be one of five major national events in all of Japan in 2012.

NCBF is working with the city to plan a visual campaign throughout the District for the Centennial, May-

hew said.

As Hoffman-Madison Waterfront (HMW) continues to plan for a 2012 start of construction of the first phase of the Wharf development, the Centennial is much on their minds. The new partnership between the WWA and HMW will allow for continued expansion of Southwest's involvement in the Centennial and in future Cherry Blossom Festivals.



Southwest Waterfront FIREWORKS FESTIVAL



While we celebrate the enduring friendship between the citizens of the United States and Japan, help us honor those lost or suffering in the recent earthquake and tsunami—keep them in your thoughts and as Japan recovers from this devastation.

Gangplank Marina Stage:

- 1:00: US Navy Band and Cermonial Color Guard
- 3:00: The "Old Guard" Fife and Drum Corps
- 6:30: US Army Band "Pershing's Own" Downrange

7th Street Landing Stage:

- 1:00: Collector's Edition with Kristine Key
- 3:00: The Clarence Turner Blues Band
- 4:30: The Jacques "Saxman" Johnson Band

9th Street Plaza Stage:

- 1:00: The VIPs
- 3:00: Nen Daiko Japanese Taiko Drummers
- 4:30: High Jinx

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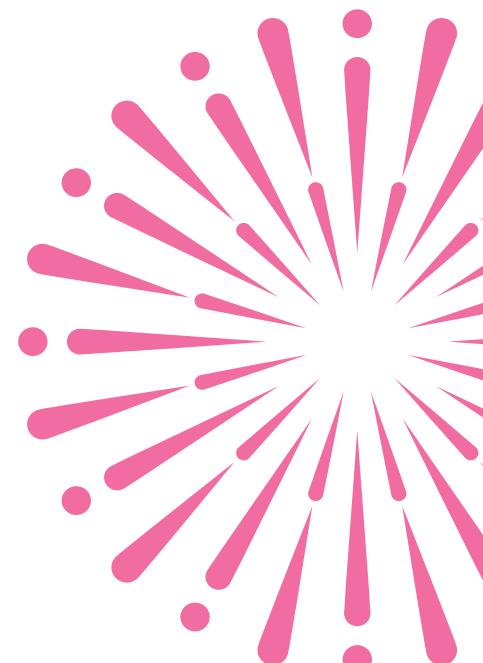
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- Food and Beverage Vendors**
- Festival Merchandise**
- National Cherry Blossom Goodwill Ambassadors**
- Free Bike Valet Courtesy of WABA**

The Southwest Waterfront Fireworks Festival is a FREE official event of the 2011 National Cherry Blossom Festival co-produced by the Washington Waterfront Association and Hoffman-Madison Waterfront. The Southwest Waterfront can be easily reached by Metro's Orange, Blue, Yellow and Green lines to L'Enfant Plaza or Metro's Green line to Waterfront-SEU; or by Circulator Bus to Water Street, SW. For more information regarding the Southwest Waterfront redevelopment, please visit www.wharfdc.com.

The National Cherry Blossom Festival is Washington, DC's and the Nation's greatest springtime celebration. The 2011 Festival is March 26 through April 10 and features signature events, daily cultural performance, art exhibits, sport competitions and more. The National Cherry Blossom Festival celebrates the 99th anniversary of the gift of the cherry blossom trees and the enduring friendship between the citizens of the United States and Japan. For schedules and information call the Festival hotline at 877-44-BLOOM or visit: www.nationalcherryblossomfestival.org.



FESTIVAL

From p. 7

laboration of Hoffman-Madison Waterfront (HMW), the Southwest Fireworks Festival will greatly increase its footprint and the hours of celebration. Normally limited to the park near Gangplank Marina, the April 2 festival will stretch to the 7th Street Landing, to the lot west of the 700 Water Street building (formerly Zanzibar) and to the future site of the Kastles' tennis stadium (formerly the site of Hogates). The festival will boast three stages with constant entertainment organized by the WWA, caretakers for many years of the festival in Southwest, and by HMW.

In fact, the new Wharf will be the perfect venue for many of the traditional events of the Waterfront, particularly the Cherry Blossom Festival. The many public areas in the development plan create the necessary space and provide for the possibility of planting many more Yoshino Cherry Trees along the channel as a way of expanding the blossoms into Southwest.

Mayhew is hopeful that the new Wharf

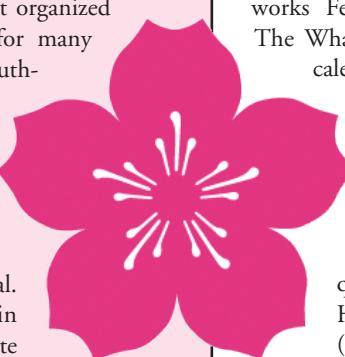


Photo courtesy of the National Cherry Blossom Festival.

The Southwest Fireworks Festival Entertainment

This year's Festival will take place on Saturday, April 2 from 1 p.m. to 9 p.m., with fireworks beginning at 8:30 p.m. The National Cherry Blossom Fireworks Show is sponsored by Safeway and the Washington Examiner and will be best viewed from East Potomac Park and the Southwest Waterfront Promenade.

Three stages will anchor the Southwest Fireworks Festival with musical entertainment:

Gangplank Marina Stage:

1:00 p.m.: US Navy Band and Ceremonial Color Guard
3:00 p.m.: The "Old Guard" Fife and Drum Corps
6:00 p.m.: US Army Band "Pershing's Own" Downrange

7th Street Landing Stage:

1:00 p.m.: Collector's Edition with Kristine Key
3:00 p.m.: The Clarence Turner Blues Band
4:30 p.m.: The Jacques "Saxman" Johnson Band

Interim Events on the Waterfront Kickoff with Cherry Blossom

By Glenn Favreau

The Southwest Fireworks Festival will be the first of many events on the Waterfront as residents await the start of construction of the new Wharf. "The Southwest Waterfront Fireworks Festival marks the beginning of The Wharf's 2011 interim programming calendar which features live music, festivals, family friendly events, The Washington Kastles and culminates with the Lighted Boat Parade in December," said Tyson Pitzer, Director of Investments of Madison Marquette, development partner of Hoffman-Madison Waterfront (HMW).

Bob Rubenkonig, event coordinator for HMW, is currently working on programming specifics. Rubenkonig assured the Southwester the program will be ready for publication in May issue. Much of the music will be organized by

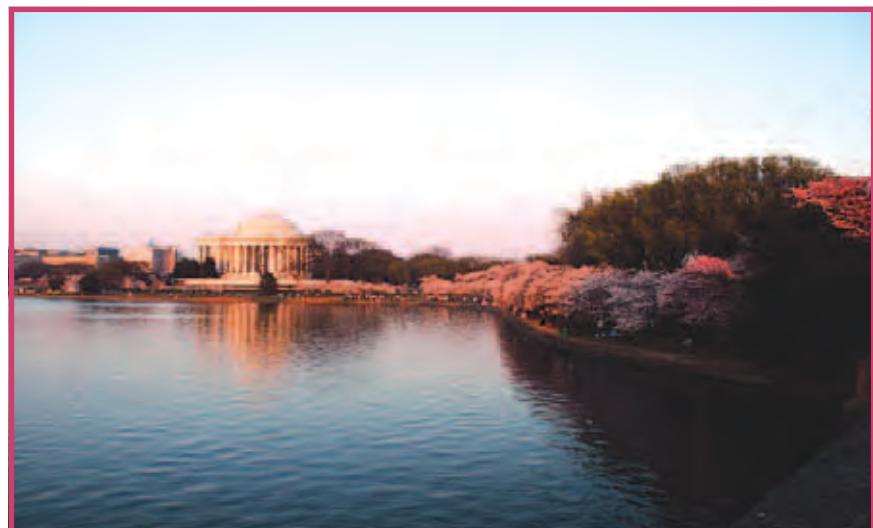


Photo courtesy of the National Cherry Blossom Festival.

Southwest's own Rev. Brian Hamilton of Westminster Presbyterian Church.

An interim events committee made up of local organizations and businesses meets regularly under the sponsorship of HMW to search out as many events as possible to help start creating an atmosphere which

will be projected to the future Wharf.

Last year's programming was centered on the 7th Street Landing and the Parade of Lighted Boats. Both were huge successes and proved very popular with local residents.

will provide the proper logistics to continue to expand the Southwest Fireworks Festival in the future.

This year's fireworks are sponsored by Safeway and the Washington Examiner. These, together with many other partners make the entire Cherry Blossom Festival possible city-wide.

"I continue to be amazed at how supportive residents, partners, businesses, organizations, and developers are and how the Festival really builds neighborhood, especially in Southwest," Mayhew said. "We want to show tourists the very best of Southwest," she added.

J. Nickerson, president of the WWA, is heading up the organizational efforts this year for the organization which has been responsible for the fireworks and pre-festivities for

the past several years. With collaboration from HMW, there are plans to light up some boats pink along the Waterfront, and Arena Stage is also looking into going pink for the event. Nickerson told us that an addition to the Fireworks Festival this year will be a beer and sake garden located on the lot west of the 700 Water St. building.

"The Cherry Blossom Festival continues to be a centerpiece of celebrating the Waterfront, and we are confident that it will only get better as the years go by," Nickerson said.

Fireworks festival organizers are planning a cleanup day for the Waterfront before the celebration and will leave the entire area pristine after the fireworks. This year, Deer Park will donate water which festival organizers will sell to help finance the recycling of some of the waste created during the day.



Intrepid boat maker at last year's Southwest event

9th Street Plaza Stage:

1:00 p.m.: The VIP's
3:00 p.m.: Nen Daiko Japanese Taiko Drummers
4:30 p.m.: High Jinx

There will be plenty of other activities for all ages on the Waterfront including seaworthy boat making and sailing for children, National Maritime Foundation presentations, strolling face painters, an origami demonstration tent, roving characters, and a beer and sake garden.

Food and beverages will be on sale from Southwest's District Dog House, various food trucks, Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers, Safeway's Ranchers' Reserve Team, and Barbecue vendors.

Entertainment Cruises will be offering special outings during the entire Cherry Blossom Festival with their signature fireworks cruise on April 2. Tickets to all of the cruises can be booked in advance on www.entertainmentcruises.com.

A Gathering of Men Discuss and Share

On Wed., Feb. 23, eight men from the South Washington West of the River Family Strengthening Collaborative joined nine others at the Washington Senior Wellness Center for the regular meeting, A Gathering of Men. This month's topic was "Sharing the Experience: An Intergenerational Discussion on Relationships."

Once a month men in the Metro DC area gather to support each other in becoming better fathers, sons, husbands, lovers, and friends. A Gathering of Men is a 13-year-old men's support group that has been held in both Silver Spring, MD and in Washington, DC. The intergenerational group provides a space for men to come together "without the mask" states Adeyemi Bandele, founder of Men on the Move Men on the Move (MOM), a local spirit-based organization. One of MOM's services is holding A Gathering of Men sessions. The sessions allow men to share, heal and celebrate themselves and their relationships. The group currently meets at St. Augustine's Episcopal Church, 600 M St., SW.

Alphonso Coles, Director of the Fatherhood/Men's Program at the South Washington Collaborative, encourages members of his group to attend the sessions, which are open to the entire community. Alphonso has seen the impact A Gathering of Men has had in providing experiences that support his clients and help them become better fathers and mates. Young men age 14 and older are encouraged to attend as long as they are brought by their father



Men from the Southwest Washington West of the River Family Strengthening Collaborative participated in a February discussion on relationship. In photo: Terry Marshall, Trenier Felton, Anthony Jones, Larry Walker, William Curtis Lindsay, and Michael Coles.

or an older adult. Bandele believes that "the intergenerational approach offers young men an opportunity to see men in a circle

share openly, honestly and lovingly." In the circle, men who may be shy or are holding on to issues that they have never felt safe in sharing are encouraged to do so. "This is not the barber shop where the loudest voice holds court," states Bandele.

Attendees have run the gamut from a recently divorced man who is experiencing anger and fears he may become physically abusive to a man who is raising his daughter alone and is experiencing her apparent withdrawal as she becomes a teenager. Men share their experiences in dealing with their relationships with their fathers and discuss openly how those experiences have affected their relationships with their significant others or their children. In most cases there are men in the group who "have been there and done that." Consequently, support is provided not by academically trained counselors but by other men who have already experienced certain things and can provide healthy wholesome ideas to help others move forward. Sessions that have been open to women include "Can Men and Women Really Be Friends?" and "When She Makes More Money." Other topics the group has covered include healing father anger, blended families, raising girls alone, men's sexual health, managing finances, and domestic violence.

The next session of A Gathering of Men will discuss "How Menopause, Fibroids, PMS and Diet Affect Women."

Theater J Brings Production of *The Chosen* to Arena Stage

The Arena Stage at the Mead Center for American Theater has staged many productions by other theater companies in the past, but Theater J is the first local company to stage a full production at Arena. Ari Roth, Theater J's Artistic Director says he got his start in D.C. theater as a playwright at Arena Stage working with Zelda Fichandler.

"What a thrill to come back this season as a proud producer, with our vigorous young company, sharing in Arena's extraordinary launch of one of the great new theater palaces in America," Roth said.

Theater J's *The Chosen* at Arena runs Mar. 8 through Mar. 27 at the Fichandler Stage.

Theater J was founded in 1990 as the professional theater of the D.C. Jewish Community

Center (JCC), which was incorporated as a non-profit in 1985. Since its first years as a 50-seat theater located in a rented townhouse, Theater J was committed to producing innovative Jewish theater. Now a 236-seat Small Professional Theater in the renovated historic JCC building at 16th and Q streets, NW, Theater J presents four main stage productions, staged readings, and one-person performance pieces each year.

Theater J, the DC Jewish Community Center's theater company, brings their show *The Chosen* to the Arena Stage at the Mead Center for American Theater. The show runs through March 27. Photo by Stan Barouh, courtesy of Theater J.



Arena Stage Offers Edward Albee Plays and Themed Food

By Sheila Wickoulski

Critics have called the design of the Arena Stage at the Mead Center for American Theater exemplary and enticing. The exterior of is bound to catch the attention of out-of-town visitors in Southwest for the National Cherry Blossom Festival. For these "off the mall" tourists, the Arena Stage at the Mead Center for American Theater offers many inside attractions.

The plays are, of course, the major thing. The Edward Albee Festival, with over 30 events, continues with performances of *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf* until Apr. 10 and *At Home at the Zoo* until Apr. 24. The Edward Albee Festival Salon will be held on Mon., Apr. 4, at 7 p.m. The event is open to the public but reservations are required (call 202-488-3300).

For those who want a meal inspired by Edward Albee, Jose Andres has created several

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Waterfront Safeway: A Gathering Place for Everyone

Opinion article by Floyd Nelson

It is hard to believe that it was only about a year ago that we all waited with great anticipation for the grand opening of the new Safeway in Southwest DC—the new Waterfront Safeway!

Since its arrival, those of us who shop at the Waterfront Safeway regularly have come to appreciate the many fine and tangible offerings occupying its more than 54,000 square feet of space. Using what the California-based Safeway, Inc.'s corporate office calls its "lifestyle format," the Waterfront Safeway has a full-service deli, a sit-down sushi bar, a pharmacy, a large beer and wine section, a dry cleaner, indoor seating, recessed lighting and a gas-burning fireplace. Each of these amenities serves to remind us that this facility is far and away better than the outdated store it replaced. And how could we forget it has a Starbucks!

With over 150 employees, the new Safeway has brought a wealth of products, services and convenience to residents living in DC's Southwest and Capitol Riverfront communities. But this grocery store's most important offering cannot be found behind the glass doors of the frozen food section or in the bakery area on \$5 Fridays. The new Waterfront Safeway has become a unique place where a diverse community comes together. Look closely at our neighborhood grocery store and you will see that it has become a gathering place for all of our differences.

Christians, Muslims, Jews, Hindus, non-believers and more all shop at the Waterfront Safeway. So do Democrats, Republicans,

Independents, boat owners, non-swimmers, the wealthy, the not-so wealthy, runners, wheelchair users, soldiers, women, men, and children from all over the United States. In fact, people from Latin America, the Caribbean, Europe, Asia, Africa and the Middle East have been known to meander through the aisles. The United Nations has six official languages: Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish. I personally have heard all six spoken while standing in line at the self-checkout at the Waterfront Safeway.

To put it another way, if you sit long enough near the automatic sliding glass doors at the front of the store, you will witness the comings and goings of every race, gender, religion, nationality, ethnicity, age, language, culture, sexual orientation, physical condition, appearance, political affiliation, socio-economic position, personality and point of view come into the Waterfront Safeway.

Even on a terrible day in March, filled with words such as earthquake, tsunami and nuclear meltdown, at a White House news conference not far from our very own Waterfront Safeway, President Barack Obama spoke to the world: "When you see what's happening in Japan, you are reminded that for all our differences in culture or language or religion, that ultimately humanity is one."

On a much smaller and vastly less dramatic scale, thousands of miles away from the earthquake's epicenter near Sendai, Japan, I am reminded that one can sit at a gathering place in Southwest DC and witness the comings and goings of a diverse community whose very presence should remind us all that "humanity is one."



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Computers-for-Kids Students to Graduate April 9

By Thelma Jones

The Southwest Neighborhood Assembly (SWNA) Youth Activities Task Force (YATF) will host its Computer-for-Kids Graduation on Saturday, April 9, at 2 p.m. at the Syphax Village Community Center at 1345 Half St., SW.

The graduation will recognize the achievements of six students who have successfully completed the program's requirements of good attendance, good behavior, and good participation. Each graduating student will receive a refurbished desktop computer provided by the SWNA Technology Task Force. The public is invited to witness the event, which will be followed by a reception. Inaugural graduate Tantania Brown will serve as the mistress of ceremonies for the third time and the guest speaker will be from the World Bank Group. To date, more than 50 students have graduated from the program since its inception in October 2007.

Registration has begun for the summer Computer-for-Kids class scheduled to begin Monday, June 6, at 6:30 p.m. at King Greenleaf Recreation Center, 201 N St., SW. For the first time, YATF will welcome younger children ages 7-9 who constantly enter the regular classes with a plea to enroll. Regular classes typically serve

10-12-year-olds. Taught by highly skilled volunteers, the eight-week class meets every Monday night at 6:30 p.m. for one hour and youths enjoy healthy snacks afterward.

In addition, on Saturday, April 30, at 10 a.m., YATF will host a Math Fair at King-Greenleaf Recreation Center from 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. An outgrowth of the math fair organized last October by SW resident Kirstin L. Jones, who was then completing her Gold Award for Girl Scouts for community service, the math fair will focus on children in grades 3-7. The fair is intended to help give our community children a positive, "hands on" experience while demonstrating creative and fun ways to learn math at an early age. The event will include a guest speaker and various math-related activities including circle games that involve strategic-thinking and manual dexterity. A light lunch will be provided. The event is free and open to the public, with priority to children living in Southwest. Volunteers are needed to help with setting-up and breaking-down, staffing of math stations and assisting children with various games.

For more information on volunteering, please e-mail Thelma Jones at tjones15@verizon.net or call (202) 488-3746.

African American Legends Commemorate Black History at Amidon-Bowen

By Meg Brinckman

Third, fourth and fifth grade students explored the rich history of Blacks in America with a visit to Baltimore's "Blacks in Wax" museum, where they saw an exhibition of African-American legends, past and present. The fourth and fifth grade students identified an African-American icon to be the subject of their own research. The goal was to learn through their research of the contributions of living and past African Americans and to present their findings to the community.

Each student wrote a composition as though they were speaking as the historical figure,

found pictures or period artifacts to display and emulated that person in dress and attitude in the presentation Feb. 25 in the school's gymnasium. Parents were invited to attend and enjoy the presentation by each student as they moved around the room being greeted by legends, past and present.

In addition, on Feb. 25 Dr. Raymond Jackson from Howard University took students through history as told by the music of African Americans. He showed how farm workers used "Call and Response" to communicate on plantations, how music was inspired by church and bible stories, and how music was used to tell stories.

Books for Classrooms

You can donate new books to Amidon-Bowen classrooms through Amazon.com. Just visit Amazon Books online and click on "Wish List and Registries." Type in "Amidon-Bowen" to see an extensive list of books that has been prepared by the school. Contact the main office for more details at 202-724-4867.



DC CAS Testing in April

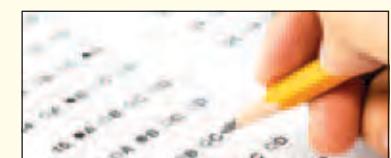
Testing Dates:

Amidon-Bowen Elementary -

April 5-13

Jefferson Middle - April 4-14

Best preparation for these important measures of our students' progress: A good night's sleep and a positive attitude!



“Gospel Songs and Funny Stories” Program Slated for April 6 St. Augustine’s Art & Spirit Coffeehouse

By Elaine Graves

The mother-daughter duo of Lois Tett, gospel singer, and Marie Compohi, orator and comedian, will present “Gospel Songs and Funny Stories,” an enjoyable evening of old-school gospel songs, humorous stories and poetry for the St. Augustine’s Art & Spirit Coffeehouse on Wednesday, April 6. The free event, beginning at 7 p.m., is sponsored by St. Augustine’s Episcopal Church, 600 M Street, SW, and includes desserts and coffee.

“You’ll hear gospel, popular and spirituals—vocal selections from the Sixties and beyond such as “Precious Lord,” “Steal Away,” “Believe in Yourself” and songs from “The Wiz”—plus comedy from my daughter Marie,” Tett said.

Tett is a former member of the Jericho Gospel Singers of Louisville, Ky. Her group often opened programs for the Caravan Gospel Singers from Chicago, and several Philadelphia groups: James Cleveland and the Cleveland Singers, The Davis Sisters and Luvenia Carroll of The Famous Clara Ward Gospel Singers.

Tett began singing gospel as at age 4 in her family’s Louisville group organized by her father, Rev. George Pendleton Tett, a Methodist minister and her mother, Ethel, a missionary and pianist in the Tabernacle Church of God in Christ.

Later Tett studied to be a teacher and majored in business education with a minor in voice, eventually marrying and raising three children. She ultimately decided against teaching and worked for several government agencies including the Department of Defense. Today,

as a grandmother of six with a strong entrepreneurial drive, she started her own business, Tett Enterprises, in order to assist small and minority-owned businesses in marketing and development. She is also the founder of the Minority and Women-Owned Businesses (MAWOB) of D.C., and a facilitator for “7 Habits of Highly Effective People” as well as an international motivational speaker.

Tett’s daughter, Marie Compohi, was a May 2008 Apollo Amateur Night contestant and has appeared in various comedy clubs and performances throughout the area. Since 1996, Compohi has been a Metro bus driver.

Compohi created a monologue about Virginia Hall, a Baltimore native who was the first American female spy in World War II.

“She’s a remarkable woman ignored by history for over 50 years,” Compohi said.

She will tell Hall’s story as part of her program on April 6. Compohi is a former Southwest resident and said she hopes to see her neighbors in the audience.

The Southwest Episcopal Church’s Art & Spirit Coffeehouse series opens on the first Wednesday of each month to showcase local artists in their various media as they perform and share how their faith, art and social worldview intersect, according to the Rev. Martha Clark, Priest-in-Charge at St. Augustine’s. Donations will be accepted to help provide honoraria for the guest artists. Contact rector@staugustinesdc.org, 202-554-3222 or visit www.staugustinesdc.org for further information.

St. Augustine’s Church Turns Fifty Years Old

St. Augustine’s Episcopal Church will celebrate the 50th anniversary of its first meeting with a celebration Sunday April 10 at 9:30 a.m., marked by a visit and guest sermon by the church’s first minister, the Rev. Alfred R. Shands. St. Augustine’s was founded by Shands at the request of the Episcopal Diocese, with the very first congregational meeting at an apartment located at 800 Fourth St., SW in April 1961. A few weeks later, owner Joe Rulon of the “old” Hogate’s Restaurant (on the east side of Maine Avenue) invited the congregation to meet in one of the restaurant’s rooms each Sunday. The congregation of “St. Hogate’s,” as some lightly called it, met at Hogate’s until it moved to its current church building at the corner of Maine Avenue and Sixth streets, SW, was completed in 1966.

WESTMINSTER DC

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4/16 Passover Potluck Seder

4/17 Palm Sunday Walk to Greet Neighborhood Churches

4/19 Blue Monday Blues 6-9pm

4/20 Wellness Wednesday Yoga/TaiChi 4—8pm

4/21 Holy Thursday Soup + Memorial of Last Supper

4/22 Good Friday /Earth Day Noon Walk to Buzzard Point + Good Friday Jazz 6-9

4/23 Holy Saturday Great Easter Vigil—sunset to sunrise—sign up for vigil hours to meditate + walk the labyrinth

4/24 Day of Resurrection—Easter Breakfast between sunrise and 11am service; fellowship and songs; communion bread-baking; festival worship; egg hunt.

 Details on facebook

Facebook.com/westminsterdc

400 1 St SW 484-7700
www.westminsterdc.org

Easter Calendar

St. Dominic Parish

603 E St. SW • (202) 554-7863

Holy Thursday - April 21 - 7:30 p.m. Includes procession to the Altar of Repose. Adoration until 10:00 p.m.

Good Friday - April 22 - 12:15 p.m. Stations of the Cross, 3:00 p.m. Commemoration of the Lord’s Passion. Holy Communion is only distributed at the 3 p.m. services.

Easter Vigil - April 23 - 7:30 p.m. (Followed by Reception)

Easter Sunday - April 24 - 8:00 a.m. Mass at Dawn, 10:45 a.m. Festive Mass of Easter, 12:15 p.m. Spanish. No 5:15 p.m. mass.

St. Matthew’s Lutheran (at First Trinity Lutheran Church)

501 Fourth St., NW • (202) 737-4859

Good Friday - April 22 - 12:15 p.m. and 7 p.m.

Easter Sunday - April 24 - 10:30 a.m. worship followed by a breakfast

St. Augustine’s Episcopal Church

600 M St. SE • (202) 554-3222

Maundy Thursday - April 21 - 7:00

p.m. Evening Meal with Service of Holy Eucharist and footwashing; Stripping of the Altar.

Good Friday - April 22 - 12:3 p.m. Service of the Three Hours:

1st Hour - Stations of the Cross with special music performed by SW Chamber Players

2nd Hour - Dramatized Reading of St. John’s Passion Narrative

3rd Hour - Adoration of the Cross

Holy Saturday - April 23 - 9 p.m. The Great Vigil of Easter; Candlelight Service with lighting of Paschal Fire, the Reading of Redemption History, Baptism, and the first Eucharist of Easter.

Easter Sunday - April 24 - 10 a.m. Festival Holy Eucharist with special music, followed by a reception and Easter Egg Hunt

Second Union Baptist Church

1107 Delaware Ave. SW

(202) 484-7012

Good Friday - April 22 - 7:30 p.m., Seven Last Words

Easter Sunday - April 24 - 7 a.m., Easter Sunrise Service

Friendship Baptist Church

900 Delaware Ave. SW

(202) 488-7417

Holy Thursday - April 21 - 7 p.m. Maundy Thursday Service

Good Friday - April 22 - 12 p.m. Good Friday Service

Easter Sunday - April 24 - 6:30 a.m. Sunrise Service, 9:15 a.m. Sunday School Easter Program, 11 a.m. Morning Worship



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D.C. United May Consider Buzzard Point for New Stadium

By William Rich

As the 2011 Major League Soccer (MLS) season gets underway, there have been several reports recently in the media about D.C. United's search for sites to build a new stadium in the District. Previous attempts to build one at Poplar Point and Prince George's County, Maryland never materialized. This time around, one of the sites under consideration is in Buzzard Point, specifically Akridge's 100 V St. project.

Currently, 100 V St. is planned as a secure federal campus, but there have been no tenants lined up so far. According to Lisa Steen, Vice President of Marketing at Akridge, they are aware of D.C. United's ongoing search, but Akridge has no immediate plans for any type of development at 100 V St.

"We would certainly be open to any number of uses, but I imagine only [D.C. United] can say whether they're interested in it for a stadium," said Steen.

D.C. United is being coy about their intentions as well.

"We are looking at several locations in the District, but I'm unable to specify which ones,"

said Doug Hicks, Senior Vice President of Marketing at D.C. United. "We've had conversations with Akridge, but we've also met with other developers."

Despite the vague comments from both parties, it appears that Buzzard Point is one of the top contenders for a new stadium to replace D.C. United's current home at Robert F. Kennedy Stadium, which is an aging facility surrounded by parking lots on federal land along the banks of the Anacostia River. Several MLS franchises have built new soccer-specific stadiums in the past few years, including the New York Red Bulls, Chicago Fire, Philadelphia Union, and the Colorado Rapids, while RFK is a multipurpose stadium built in 1961 that has a seating capacity of over 45,000, lacking the intimate atmosphere of newer stadiums.

While United is searching for a new home, it is in negotiations with the city to extend their lease at RFK.

"We are in the process of expanding our relationship with the city at RFK and look forward to continuing that relationship," said Hicks.

The Buzzard Point site in question is located three blocks southwest of Nationals Park on nine acres of land one block wide and three blocks

long. A soccer stadium on a narrow site like the Buzzard Point location is not unprecedented – stadiums for Boca Juniors in Buenos Aires and Tottenham in London are located in dense urban areas with limited space. If a soccer stadium is located at Buzzard Point, the area would become a stadium district of sorts. Linking the stadiums would be Potomac Avenue, SW, which currently is lined mostly with industrial operations west of South Capitol Street.

While there are differing opinions over the effect that stadiums have on economic development and how Buzzard Point should be developed, a D.C. United Stadium in the area may cause other projects to get underway that otherwise would take several years or decades to get built, including development on Potomac Avenue, SW. In 2009, a neighborhood study was done by the American Planning Association's Planning Assistance Team (PAT) and recommended that Buzzard Point become a primarily residential neighborhood.

There are other proposals to make the area an environmentally friendly eco-zone excluding vehicular traffic. Marina Place is a planned 99-unit condominium project by Buzzards Point LLC catty corner to the site at First St., SW and

V Street, SW. As a condition of approval by the ANC in January, the developer pledged to promote the area as pedestrian-friendly.

Just to the east of 100 V Street is the Buzzard Point Power Plant, which Pepco plans to decommission by May 2012. The power plant itself will most likely be landmarked as historic, but the PAT recommends that the plant can be repurposed as a cultural amenity like a museum or art gallery space. With the planned departure of the U.S. Coast Guard from its headquarters at Second Street, SW and V Street, SW to St. Elizabeth's by 2015, the PAT suggests the Coast Guard headquarters building and another office building nearby get acquired by the District for a mix of open space and limited redevelopment.

Even without a soccer stadium, the Near SE-SW area is already becoming a stadium district. Aside from Nationals Park, the Washington Kastles World Team Tennis organization recently announced it will move from downtown to a new stadium this summer at The Wharf, which is the \$1.5 billion redevelopment of the Southwest Waterfront by the Hoffman-Madison Waterfront team.



AARP Southwest Waterfront Chapter Officers and Chairs Sworn In

The new officers and committee chairs for AARP's Southwest Waterfront Chapter 4751 were sworn in on March 16. Seated are Rodina Schwartz, Odesa Humphrey (Secretary), Evelyn Dorsey (President), and Joan King (Vice President). Standing are Mary Brooks, Cherry Woodland (Treasurer), and Gloria Davis. The next meeting of the SW Chapter will take place on April 20, 2011 at noon at the Riverpark Cooperative Community Room, 1301 Delaware Ave., SW. Photo by Andy Litsky.

KASTLES

From p. 1

Ein said he welcomes new ideas for charity partnerships from the community.

"Our phone lines are always open, he said." Anyone can call the team, it's 202-4TEN-NIS."

He has a regular dialogue through numerous channels to the neighborhood but added, "Anyone can call us and talk to us about anything we can do together, any concerns they have or anything they want to discuss."

The venue for the Kastles is a 2,600-seat stadium. Ein said they are open to creative uses of the stadium, including hosting concerts and theater.

"We haven't done it in previous years, but I think we will certainly look to do that."

The team's partner in the move to Southwest is PN Hoffman-Madison Marquette, which Ein

describes as having a very strong, ongoing dialogue with the neighborhood. The D.C.-based developer asked that the Kastles work together to maintain continuity with work they are doing in the neighborhood, Ein said.

The Kastles played the last three years at old convention center site that is part of the Gallery Place neighborhood. During that time, Ein said relationships were forged between the Kastles and nearby businesses and restaurants. The tennis venue was used to expose them to wider audiences. He said he hopes to find the same opportunities with the businesses in the waterfront area.

Ein said he believes residents of Southwest will find the Kastles to be a good neighbor and a giving member of the community.

"I think anyone from the old neighborhood where we were located would tell you that," he said.

ARENA STAGE

From p. 11

choices for the Cafe menu. George and Martha's 36-hour Fighting Sort Ribs and Hard Cider Braised Chicken are the top entrees. "The Ann" is a pastrami sandwich dedicated to an Albee character.

The Cafe is available whether you are attending a play or just want to enjoy the food and the ambience, but hours are limited. *Next Stage* opens two and a half hours before any curtain time and closes at the start of the show. *Concessions* which serves sandwiches, snacks and sweets opens 30 minutes before curtain and remains open until one hour after the show. Since the Cafe is open only on days when there are performances be sure to check the Arena calendar at www.arenastage.org.

Another possible treat for guests is the self-guide tour of the public spaces. Tours are offered daily from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., except on matinee days. The cost is \$5 and an ID is required for the tour device. Audio tours may also be downloaded as a podcast on iTunes. Special loop devices are available for those with hearing disabilities and children must be accompanied by an adult.

For those who extend their visit after the blossoms have gone, Arena offers two more productions to complete the inaugural season: *Ruined* in the Fichandler Stage and (Apr. 22-June 5, 2011) John Grisham's *A Time to Kill* in the Kreeger Theater (May 6-June 19, 2011).

It's not too early to plan on summer guests getting tickets for the smash hit *Oklahoma!* which will return to the Fichandler Stage July 8 through Oct. 2.

Nationals Offer Southwest and Near Southeast Residents Free Passes for NatsFest

Spring is back in Washington and so is Nationals baseball. To celebrate the start of the 2011 season, the club is inviting fans to come out to Nationals Park for this year's NatsFest on **March 30** from **4 p.m. to 8 p.m.** For the first time, the event will take place the day before Opening Day so that more fans than ever can enjoy the festivities.

To ensure neighborhood residents are among the thousands of fans expected to take part in the celebration, the Nationals have joined forces with the Advisory Neighborhood Commission 6D and the Southwest Neighborhood Assembly to offer free NatsFest tickets to those who live around the ballpark.

"We're delighted to extend this special offer to friends in the neighborhood who have made the team feel so welcome," Nationals Director of Community Relations Israel Negron said. "There's no better way to catch baseball fever than by attending NatsFest and we hope local residents will enjoy our games throughout the season."

In its third year, NatsFest will be packed with a variety of activities and attractions. Fresh off their successful spring season in Florida, Nationals players, coaches and executives will be on hand to help celebrate the upcoming season.

The event will give attendees the oppor-



A Nationals fan enjoyed meeting mascot Screech at last year's NatsFest. This year's NatsFest will be held March 30 and passes are free for Southwest and Near Southeast Residents. Photo courtesy of the Washington Nationals.

tunity to watch the team practice as they prepare to face off against the Atlanta Braves on Opening Day. Following the practice, participants can enjoy a meet-and-greet on the field and Q&A sessions featuring players, coaches, broadcasters, and MLB legends will take place throughout the ballpark.

Fans who have always wanted to challenge the GEICO Racing Presidents will get their chance as festival participants can enter a raffle to race Abe, George, Tom, and Teddy. NatsFest attendees can also take part in a Guitar Hero contest for the chance to win an opportunity to play head-to-head against a Nationals player on the NatsHD Video Board. Additionally, guests can tour a Nationals exhibit and mini-museum to learn

more about the history of baseball in Washington or bid on signed and game-used items in a silent auction benefitting the Washington Nationals Dream Foundation.

NatsFest will also feature a variety of kid-friendly attractions, including a bounce house, inflatable games, carnival games, face painters and balloon artists. Young Nats fans can test their skills in the Exxon Strike Zone and enjoy the park's own Build-a-Bear Workshop. In addition, NatsFest guests will have the opportunity to buy the newest Nationals gear for 2011 at the Majestic Team Store.

NatsFest tickets are normally \$10 for adults and \$5 for children under the age of 12, but the team is offering them free of charge to residents of Southwest and near-Southeast with a \$3.50 service charge for each order of up to 12 tickets. Readers of *The Southwester* can visit nationals.com/neighborhood, click on the green "Get Your Complimentary Tickets Now" button and enter **SESWNEIGHBORHOOD** when prompted. Anyone interested in avoiding the service charge or placing orders for groups larger than 12 people can pick up tickets at the ANC 6D office at 1101 Fourth St., SW from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. on weekdays. Please call the ANC for more information at 202.554.1795.

April 16 Nationals Game Will Celebrate Neighborhood Residents

The Nationals will celebrate the vibrant spirit of the Southwest and near-Southeast communities when the team hosts Neighborhood Day at Nationals Park on Saturday, April 16 as they face the Milwaukee Brewers at 1:05 p.m.

The team will honor the neighborhood by featuring Southwest and near-Southeast residents in all pregame activities, including throwing out the first pitch, performing the National Anthem, delivering the line-up card and greeting the players as they take their positions on the field. The ballclub will also offer a generous discount to neighborhood residents for this game and all games throughout the season.

"We sincerely appreciate the community's support and constructive work to ensure the ballpark operates well," said Nationals Vice President of Government and Municipal Affairs Gregory McCarthy. "We encourage our Southwest and near-Southeast neighbors to join us in celebrating this wonderful neighborhood and its residents."

The Nats are committed to engaging the neighborhood, supporting community-based programs, and employing Southwest residents, further strengthening linkages between the team and the community.

"The team has a great tradition of honoring the residents of our ANC every baseball season and I hope to see many of our neighbors come to Nationals Park on April 16 to celebrate this occasion," said Ron McBee, chair of Advisory Neighborhood Commission 6D.

In addition to offering Southwest and near-Southeast neighborhood residents the opportunity to purchase tickets for Neighborhood Day at a discounted price, the Nationals will offer their neighbors discount tickets all season long. To purchase discount tickets, residents can visit nationals.com/neighborhood.

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